

Alberta

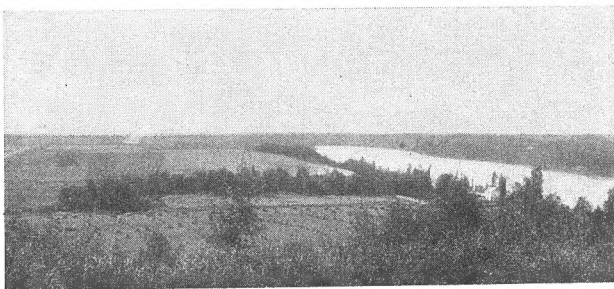
*A Land
of Opportunity*



A Summary of Facts
Concerning
the Province of
Alberta
Canada

*This Booklet is issued
under the authority of
Hon. George Hoadley,
Minister of Agriculture,
Edmonton, Alberta.*

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An Alberta Landscape

INTRODUCTORY

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ALBERTA, the newest of Canada's provinces, is remarkable for the diversity of its physical features and natural resources. Nowhere in Canada is there to be found the same combination of prairie and mountain beauty, nor do any of the other provinces of the Dominion possess on the same extensive scale the combined mineral and agricultural wealth that is Alberta's.

The history of Alberta dates back to the early days of the Hudson's Bay Co. The territory now included within the province was formerly part of the famous Rupert's land, controlled by the great fur trading company. Following the passing of the British North America Act in 1867, this land was taken over by the Canadian government, and formed part of what was then known as the Northwest Territories. In 1905 the separate provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan were formed, with their own provincial governments as in the other provinces.

AREA AND PHYSICAL FEATURES

The area of Alberta is 253,540 square miles. Its length from south to north is 750 miles, and in width it varies from 180 miles in the south to 400 miles at the northern extremity. Of the total acreage of the province of 163,384,000 acres, about 83,000,000 acres are capable of cultivation. Less than 10,000,000 acres of this area were under cultivation in 1922. The acreage of lakes and rivers in the province is 4,503,740 acres.

Comparative Areas—Alberta, in area, is more than twice as large as Great Britain and Ireland, is much larger than



Harvesting in Alberta

France or Germany, and is half again as large as all of the New England states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania together.

For descriptive purposes, it is customary to divide the province into three general divisions, known as Southern, Central and Northern Alberta.

Southern Alberta refers to that portion of the province lying between the international boundary on the south, and the Red Deer river on the north, about 100 miles north of Calgary. For the most part Southern Alberta is made up of open prairie land, save for the western portion, which includes the foothills and the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains.

Central Alberta describes that portion lying between the Red Deer river on the south, and the height of land between the Peace and Athabasca rivers, north of Edmonton. The character of this area is parklike, with alternate open and wooded spaces; and it is well watered, making it ideal for the practice of mixed farming.

Northern Alberta is also park-like in nature, save for a fine open stretch of country north-west of Edmonton known as the Grande Prairie. The northern part of the province including the famous Peace River Country, while still in the early stages of its development, has seen rapid settlement within the past few years. Generally speaking, the northern section is also well adapted to farming and ranching operations.

Climate—Owing to its proximity to the Pacific coast province of British Columbia, Alberta is favored with a rather moderate climate. The air is clear and invigorating, and there is a plentiful amount of sunshine. The hot days of



A Wheat Field

mid-summer are relieved by cool nights, and although the winters are characterized by cold spells, the famous Chinook winds furnish a spring-like relaxation at intervals throughout the winter months. In fact, the winter weather is so moderated by the influence of the Pacific breezes, that in many parts of the province it is possible to winter stock in the open the year round.

Altitudes—The altitude at Lethbridge, near the U.S. boundary, is 2900 feet; at Calgary, 150 miles north, it is 3400 feet; at Edmonton, 200 miles north of Calgary, it is 2100 feet, and at Peace River, near the northern boundary of the province, it is 1092 feet.

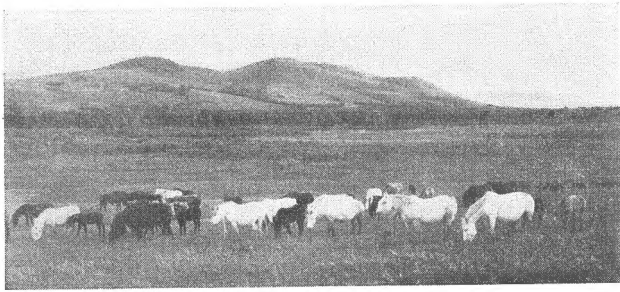
Precipitation—Precipitation over the province averages between 14 and 20 inches. A table showing the average precipitation at scattered points in the province over a period of 10 years is given below:

| Points | 1911 | 1912 | 1913 | 1914 | 1915 |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Lethbridge | 21.19 | 13.21 | 14.17 | 17.58 | 17.40 |
| Medicine Hat . . . | 16.04 | 9.78 | 12.65 | 12.17 | 16.13 |
| Calgary | 19.99 | 20.14 | 17.38 | 17.71 | 18.24 |
| Edmonton | 20.67 | 20.18 | 19.55 | 25.29 | 18.64 |
| Peace River | 17.17 | 5.38 | 23.99 | 9.05 | |
| Ft. Vermilion . . . | 11.57 | 9.81 | 14.32 | 9.08 | 7.74 |

| Points | 1916 | 1917 | 1918 | 1919 | 1920 | 10 yr. Avg. |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------------|
| Lethbridge | 25.88 | 11.93 | 8.94 | 13.36 | 14.05 | 15.77 |
| Medicine Hat . . . | 17.90 | 13.42 | 10.03 | 7.66 | 10.74 | 12.65 |
| Calgary | 13.91 | 11.44 | 9.12 | 12.21 | 14.42 | 15.45 |
| Edmonton | 20.92 | 15.25 | 17.86 | 16.43 | 18.16 | 19.29 |
| Peace River | | | 10.36 | 14.29 | 11.98 | 13.17 |
| Ft. Vermilion . . . | 12.00 | 8.71 | 11.95 | 16.10 | 10.28 | 11.15 |

POPULATION

Population in Alberta had increased from 73,000 in 1901 to 588,000 in 1921. Since 1911 the increase has been 56 per cent. The 1916 census gave the rural



An Alberta Ranch

population as 307,766 and the urban population as 188,749.

The 1921 census gave the rural population as 365,550, and the urban population as 222,904.

MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATION

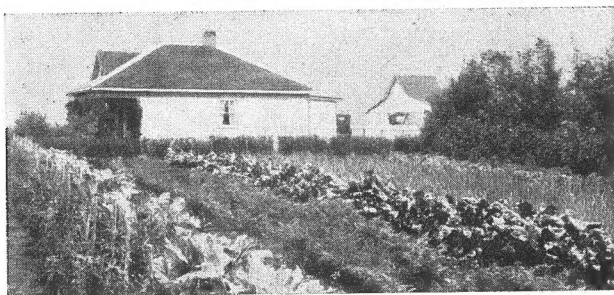
There are in Alberta six cities, 54 towns, 119 villages, 167 municipal districts and 251 improvement districts. The organized municipalities are governed by councils, while the unorganized territory is supervised by the Department of Municipal Affairs of the Government, which also exercises general supervision over all municipal organization.

Cities of Alberta—The six cities of Alberta and their population, are as follows: Edmonton, the capital, 58,821; Calgary, 63,351; Lethbridge, 11,097; Medicine Hat, 9,634; Red Deer, 2,328, and Wetaskiwin, 2,061.

Taxation—In rural districts taxation is on land alone, and not on improvements. Rates are fixed by the Government in unorganized districts, and by councils in municipal districts. In cities there is a business and property tax.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Ranching—The agricultural development of the province has been from south to north. In the '70's, stockmen came from the United States, Eastern Canada and Great Britain to Southern Alberta prairies and foothills, and established the horse and cattle ranches that have made the province famous as a stock-raising country. Though to-day, the ranches have been replaced to a great extent by farms, there still remain ranches that continue to ship a high class of stock. Ranching activities have also been extended to the large open areas in the northern part of the province.



An Irrigated Garden

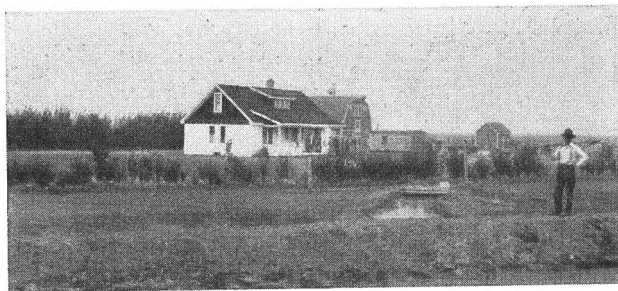
The cattle industry has grown rapidly. In 1910 the number of cattle in the province numbered 672,700, and in 1921 the figure was 1,854,202. The number of horses in 1910 was 254,197, and in 1921 was 916,510. The ranch of the Prince of Wales is located in Alberta, southwest of Calgary, in the foothills.

Grain Farming—Alberta has come into rapid fame in its production of a high quality of small grains. The southern portion of the province for some years has been given over largely to grain production, although other parts of the province have also become noted for their high standard of grains. The average yield for various grains over a period of thirteen years from 1910 to 1922 inclusive, was as follows: Spring wheat 19.52 bushels to the acre, fall wheat 19.30 bushels, oats 31.71 bushels, barley 22.81 bushels, rye 18.17 bushels and flax 8.87 bushels. In 1915 the average yield of spring wheat throughout the province was 35.93 bushels, of oats 57.66 bushels. The heaviest yields in that year and also in 1916 were in Southern Alberta when yields of from 40 to 60 bushels of wheat and from 80 to 100 bushels of oats per acre, were not uncommon.

Grain production has increased in the province as follows: From 8,467,000 bushels of wheat in 1909 to 65,000,000 bushels in 1922; from 24,819,000 bushels of oats in 1909 to 115,000,000 bushels in 1920, and from 3,310,000 bushels of rye in 1909, to 12,800,000 bushels in 1920.

IRRIGATION

Projects for the irrigation of large areas of Southern Alberta lands have come to play a prominent part in the building up of the prosperity of that portion of the province. Projects which



Home of an Irrigation Farmer

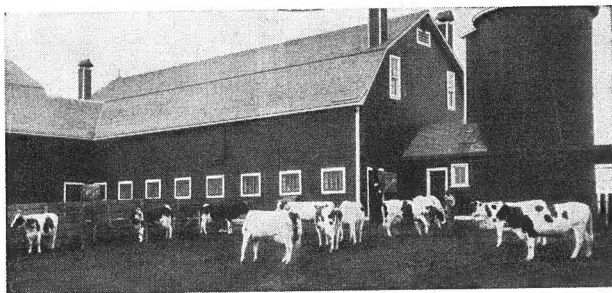
have been in operation for some years include the C.P.R. western project, just east of Calgary, which brings water to 230,000 acres, the C.P.R. eastern project, in the same territory, which irrigates 400,000 acres, the C.P.R. Lethbridge-Coaldale project, which brings water to 120,000 acres in the Raymond and Coaldale districts, and 17,000 acres in the Taber district, and the project of the Canada Land and Irrigation Co., which will eventually irrigate 200,000 acres of fine land west of Medicine Hat, and of which 30,000 acres is already under water.

In addition to these, other projects are in course of establishment, by farmers themselves, under the provisions of the irrigation act of the province. Under this act, farmers desirous of irrigation, form irrigation districts, and issue bonds for construction purposes. The provincial government has guaranteed bonds of three projects of this nature, these being the Lethbridge Northern, to irrigate 105,000 acres north of Lethbridge, the United project, to irrigate 23,000 acres near Cardston, and the South Macleod project, to irrigate 50,000 acres near Macleod. Other large projects are being surveyed.

Under irrigation Southern Alberta lands produce magnificent forage crops, particularly alfalfa. Root crops and small fruits also do remarkably well.

Water Supply—Abundant water supply for irrigation purposes is furnished in the high waters of the large rivers that flow through Southern Alberta.

Cheap Irrigated Lands—Acreage which will be irrigated by the new Lethbridge Northern project, near Lethbridge, is now being thrown open for settlement. The district covered by the project is already fairly well settled. The holdings are being divided, and the ex-



Purebred Dairy Herd

cess land offered for sale at prices ranging from \$15 to \$40 an acre. The capital water charges are \$45 an acre over a term of 30 years, which makes this one of the most attractive irrigated propositions on the continent. Write the Irrigation Council, Lethbridge, for information.

Mixed Farming—Central and Northern Alberta, by reason of their physical features, are particularly adapted to the practice of mixed farming. Farmers in these areas have not only been grain producers, but also have become dairymen and stockraisers on a small but profitable scale, making their income certain and continuous. These portions of Alberta have become noted for the production of fodder crops. In Southern Alberta, with the extension of irrigation systems, mixed farming is also coming into more general practice. Silos and silage crops are becoming a feature of Alberta farms. Sunflowers have proven very successful in many parts of the province as a silage crop. As high as 14 to 15 tons per acre of green ensilage can be grown from Mammoth Russian Sunflowers. Corn has also been established as a successful silage crop in Southern Alberta.

Wild Grasses—In many parts of Alberta wild grasses, excellent for hay, are found in abundance. There are over 40 varieties of these suitable for feeding, including vetch and wild peavine.

Dairying—Progress of dairying has been rapid, due to the exceptional advantages Alberta offers along this line. The number of dairy cows in the province in 1910 was 94,671. In 1922 the number had increased to 400,000. Value of dairy products grew from \$7,855,000 in 1910 to \$22,500,000 in 1922. Butter produced totalled 2,315,000 lbs. in 1910,



Poultry a Big Industry in Alberta

and 14,500,000 lbs. in 1922. Alberta butter in one year captured 157 of the 324 prizes offered at eleven of the largest exhibitions in Canada. In the 1920 all-Canada competition, Alberta butter captured first, second and third places. There are fifty creameries operating in the province.

Poultry—The raising of poultry has shown its advantages in Alberta. Of the 86,000 farms in the province in 1921, over 70,000 reported having flocks of poultry. Value of poultry in Alberta in 1922 was estimated at over \$9,000,000. The Provincial Department of Agriculture aids in the marketing of eggs and poultry. In 1922 a total of 435,000 dozen eggs or 29 carloads was handled by the marketing service, and 557,000 lbs. of poultry, or 37 carloads, as compared with 86,500 lbs. the year previous.

Swine—The raising of hogs is pursued with profit in Alberta. In 1911 there were 237,000 head in the province, and in 1921 the number had grown to 574,318. There are large packing plants in the province, including Swift's at Edmonton and Burns' at Calgary and Edmonton.

Sheep—While sheep ranching has been carried on extensively in Southern Alberta, the industry is gradually being transferred to the production of mutton and wool by the raising of small flocks on the farms. The number of sheep in Alberta in 1910 was 155,301 and in 1921 was 523,599.

Vegetable Growing—Alberta has become famous as a vegetable producing province, particularly potatoes. Production of potatoes in 1922 totalled nearly five million bushels. Practically all classes of vegetables do exceptionally well.



Cutting Sunflowers for Silage

Value of Agricultural Products—The total value of agricultural products in 1922, including livestock slaughtered and sold, dairy products, wool, game, all grains, etc., was close to \$150,000,000.

Homestead Lands—Free homestead land is still available in Alberta, chiefly in the northern part of the province. Write to agents of dominion lands at Lethbridge, Calgary or Edmonton for information and regulations, or to Publicity Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, Edmonton.

Price of Farm Lands—High class farm lands may be purchased in Alberta at prices ranging from \$15 an acre up for unimproved land, and at from \$30 an acre upward for improved farms.

Price of Farm Labor—Farm labor may be had in Alberta at from \$30 to \$50 a month with board, and at from \$3 to \$4 a day during the harvest season. Write Government Labor Bureaus at Calgary or Edmonton.

Cost of breaking land runs from \$3 to \$4 an acre. Cost of clearing land varies according to the class of clearing to be done, but is reasonable.

Rental of Farm Lands—Farms can be rented at reasonable rates in Alberta. The general basis is a third of the crop to the owner as rent.

Elevators—Alberta is well supplied with grain elevators. In 1916 there were over 500 of these, which, with warehouses, had a combined capacity of over 18,000,000 bushels. The Dominion Government terminal elevator at Calgary has a capacity of 3,500,000 bushels.

Hail Insurance—A municipal hail insurance scheme is in operation in the province, which is optional.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

The Provincial Department of Agriculture maintains active and aggressive



One of Alberta's Four Agricultural Schools

special service departments to assist the farmers. A dairy branch lends encouragement to the dairy industry in various ways, and provides a grading and marketing service. Grading of both cream and butter is carried on. Livestock, seed grain and poultry branches are also maintained for the advancement of the various classes of farming concerned. Demonstration plots and farms are maintained at various points in the province, at which pure bred herds of cattle are maintained for the improvement of stock. A system of agricultural district representatives is being developed, and short courses in agriculture are provided from time to time.

The Dominion Government maintains experimental stations at Lethbridge, in the south, Lacombe in the central and at Beaver Lodge in the northern parts of the province.

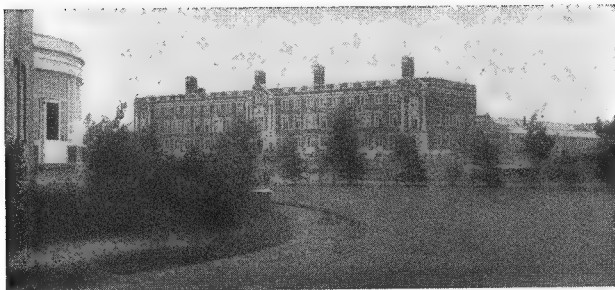
Women's Extension Services—The Provincial Department of Agriculture also provides demonstrations and lectures in domestic science and health for women in the rural districts.

Rural Credit—Under the Alberta Co-operative Credit Act, co-operative credit societies are formed in the province to which loans are made.

Rural Organizations—Alberta has several active rural organizations for development of community life in the country districts. These include the women's institutes, the United Farmers and United Farm Women, and agricultural societies.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

In addition to the teaching of agricultural subjects in the public and high schools, there is maintained by the Department of Agriculture four agricultural schools at widely separated points



University of Alberta

in the province, for instruction of farm boys and girls in agriculture and home economics. The course at these schools is of two years' duration, and is entirely free. The term opens in October and concludes in March. The entrance age limit for boys and girls is 16 or over. There is no entrance examination requirement. An agricultural college is established in connection with the provincial university at Edmonton.

GENERAL EDUCATION

A modern system of public and high school education is maintained in the province, under the supervision of the Educational Department of the Provincial Government. Rural districts are well supplied with educational facilities. There are three normal schools in the province, at Edmonton, Camrose and Calgary, and a central institute of technology is located at Calgary. Prevocational work is provided in many of the city public schools. The provincial university is established at Edmonton, and in 1922 had 1200 registered students.

Enrolment in Alberta schools in 1906 was 28,784, and in 1922 was 135,000. Number of schools in operation in 1922 was 2,746.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Alberta's wealth is not in agriculture alone. The province is potentially rich in mineral resources, of which there has been comparatively little development thus far.

Coal—The greatest development has taken place in the immense coal resources existing in the province. In both mountain and prairie there is stored, fuel for generations to come. The qualities produced include a high-grade lignite in the prairie mines, and a bitumin-



A Coal Mine

ous coal in the mountain mines. The lignite is used extensively in Western Canada as a domestic fuel. It is mined comparatively cheaply. Farmers are able to secure coal very cheaply at the mine mouth. In towns and cities coal sells from \$5 to \$8 a ton. Alberta possesses 14 per cent. of the coal areas of the world, and 87 per cent. of the coal areas of Canada. In 1909 production in the province totalled 2,174,000 tons, and in 1922 the production was 6,000,000 tons, of which over 2,000,000 tons were exported. There were 379 mines in operation during 1922.

Petroleum—Drilling for oil has been carried on for several years in many parts of Alberta. Petroleum is now produced in commercial quantities in the Okotoks field south of Calgary, and satisfactory indications have been obtained in other parts. The Imperial Oil Co. and other corporations are now spending a considerable amount of money in drilling operations. A refinery is being built at Calgary by the Imperial Oil Co. to cost \$2,500,000.

Natural Gas—Very productive fields of natural gas have been tapped, chief among them being those at Medicine Hat, Bow Island, and Okotoks. Medicine Hat city owns wells from which it secures gas for local heating, cooking, and manufacturing purposes. Gas from the Bow Island field is piped to Lethbridge and Calgary and intermediate points for domestic use.

Tar Sands—Bituminous sands containing 18.5 per cent. bitumen are exposed for 100 miles along the Athabasca river north-east of Edmonton. The thickness of the beds varies from 25 to 200 feet, and the deposits are declared by experts to have large commercial possibilities in paving material.



A Rural Municipal Hospital

Clay Products—Clay and shales suitable for the manufacture of ceramic products exist in large quantities at several points, and industries have been established for the manufacture of all classes of clay products. In 1921 the clay products of the province had a value of a million and a half dollars. There are four cement mills with a total daily output of 7,500 barrels.

Timber—Lumbering is an important industry in the province. The area covered by merchantable timber is estimated at 5,416,000 acres, and the amount of timber in board feet is estimated at 21,000,000,000 feet. The chief timbers are spruce, poplar, jack pine, birch, tamarac and willow. There are several large lumber mills in the province.

Other Resources—These include salt, bentonite, tar sands and building stone in commercial quantities.

Furs—The yearly output of furs marketed through Alberta from northern parts totals in value between two and three million dollars. In addition to business done by trappers, there are several silver fox and persian lamb farms in the province.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The Alberta Government pursues an aggressive public health policy. District nurses are maintained in the frontier districts where no doctors reside, and these nurses, often at risk of life, carry medical aid to the remote settlers. In the more settled rural districts, public health nurses are established, and these hold lectures, demonstrations and clinics from time to time. They also conduct school inspections among the pupils of the schools in their districts. In the cities clinics and school inspection are also conducted, under the supervision of the local school boards.



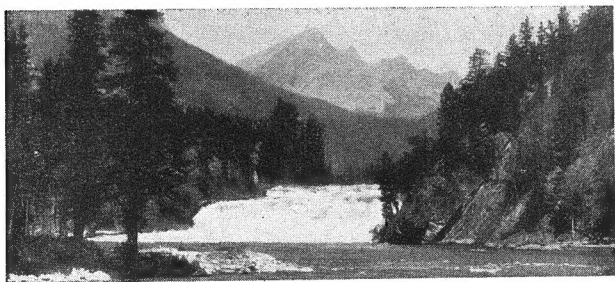
Flowers of an Alberta Farm

A system of municipal hospitals has been established under which residents of a group of municipal districts may, under the direction of the Minister of Health, form hospital districts and establish hospitals. These hospitals are supported by a nominal tax of from three to four cents an acre. Those who pay the tax receive a rate of only \$1 a day at the hospital for treatment for themselves or members of the family. These hospitals are established chiefly in the rural districts.

TRANSPORTATION

A network of railways has been built up in the province, and branch lines are now reaching out into the newly settled districts of the north country. There is at present in Alberta a total of 4,778 miles of railway, compared with only 1,060 in 1906. The Canadian Pacific Railway has 1993 miles, the National railways have 1363 miles, the balance being made up of subsidiary lines, and the Alberta government lines into the north country. Modern steamers on northern lakes and rivers give connection with far northern points.

Telephones—The Alberta telephone system is owned and operated by the Alberta Government, save the system at Edmonton, which is municipally owned, and that at Banff national park, which is operated by the Dominion Government. Automatic equipment is installed in the four larger cities. Nearly 1000 communities are connected by the long distance system, which also gives connection with nearby points in Saskatchewan, Montana and British Columbia. There were in 1921 a total of 634 exchanges and toll offices, 736 services to towns and villages, 30,000 miles of long distance lines, 50,000 miles of rural



Mountain Beauty in Alberta

lines, and 42,854 individual subscribers. More than 14,000 farm homes have phone connection at reasonable rates.

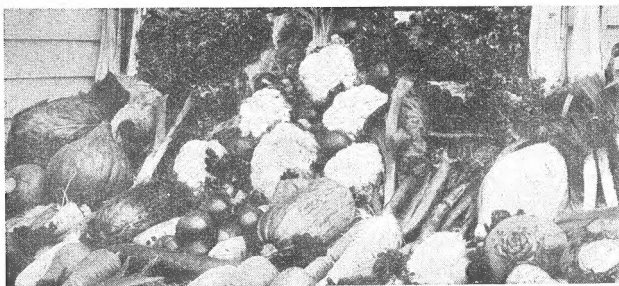
FOR THE TOURIST

Few other provinces or states offer such diversified attractions for the tourist as does Alberta. The province abounds in famous and beautiful mountain and lake resorts, which are served by convenient railway services, and the majority of which are made easily accessible to the motor tourist by a system of well-maintained public highways.

Motor tourists find a very popular route is that which leads up from Montana into Southern Alberta via Glacier Park. This is known as the "Blue Trail Circle Tour" and brings the tourist up from the grand canyon of the Colorado, through Yellowstone and the Glacier National Park, into Waterton Lakes Park in Alberta. From there the trail leads north through Macleod to Calgary, thence west to the famous resorts at Banff and Lake Louise. From here the trail leads down through the Columbia Valley into Washington State, thence south into California. This route provides a continuous panorama of unsurpassed mountain scenery.

Waterton Lakes Park, in the southwestern part of the province, is a continuation of Glacier Park in Montana. It is an ideal camping ground and may be reached by rail via Lethbridge and Cardston, or by motor from Glacier Park on the south or Lethbridge and Macleod on the north.

The famous Banff resort on the Canadian Pacific Railway, 80 miles west of Calgary, and Lake Louise, a few miles farther on, in the heart of the Canadian Rockies, have become so noted to tour-



Vegetables Do Well in Alberta

ists the world over, as to need little reference. These resorts may be reached by train from Calgary or Vancouver, or by motor from Calgary. The magnificent C.P.R. hotels at these places, as well as other stopping places, give ample accommodation to tourists.

Jasper Park, in the Yellowhead Pass west of Edmonton some 200 miles, is the great mountain resort on the main line of the Canadian National Railway. Though not so fully developed as Banff, it is already almost as famous, and is unequalled in the rugged grandeur of its peaks and the enchanting beauty of its canyons. Here one finds such noble peaks as Edith Cavell, and farther westward, the giant Robson, nearly 14,000 feet high. In Jasper Park, the National Railway has established a bungalow hotel system which gives accommodation to tourists.

In addition to these resorts there are numerous lake resorts which offer attraction for the camper and the hunter.

Auto camps are maintained at various points for convenience of tourists.

Game and Fishing—The hunter will find game to his taste in Alberta. Practically all of the varieties of big game native to the west are found in Alberta. Hunting in the national reserves is forbidden, but hunting parties are in the habit of making the national parks the starting base for hunting trips into the territory beyond. Deer and moose are plentiful in the north and in the wooded foothills. Small game and game birds are also plentiful in the province. Fishing is an attractive pastime along the numerous mountain streams and lakes, where fish abound. Write the Department of Agriculture at Edmonton for game regulations.

*For tourist maps, other
maps, and all information
about Alberta, write to the
Publicity Commissioner,
Department of Agriculture,
Edmonton, Alberta.*

